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Page 2

Amendments to the Claims:

Please cancel Claims 50, 54-56, and 59 without disclaimer or prejudice to applicants' right to pursue the subject matter of these claims in a future continuation or divisional application. Please add new Claims 65-67 set forth below.

1-64. (Canceled)

65. (New) A method of enhancing relaxation of a penile smooth muscle in a subject having heightened contractility of the penile smooth muscle, comprising the direct introduction and expression of a DNA sequence comprising a promoter sequence operably linked to a sequence encoding maxi-K potassium channel protein into a sufficient number of penile smooth muscle cells of the subject to enhance relaxation of the penile smooth muscle in the subject.

66. (New) The method of Claim 65, wherein the promoter is a smooth muscle specific promoter.

67. (New) The method of Claim 65, wherein the DNA sequence is introduced by naked DNA transfer.